AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph number [0023] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0023] The formation of a homogeneous mixture is essential to successfully carrying out the reaction. Thus, use of at least partially water-miscible organic solvents is preferred, because in combination with a substantially water insoluble surfactant, a stable emulsion can be formed. An emulsion advantageously puts all of the reactants in close proximity to each other, which allows for rapid protection of the silver oxide particles. Use of water immiscible organic solvents such as mineral oil ~~make~~ makes operation of the reaction difficult.

Please replace paragraph number [0024] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0024] Once the aqueous silver salt solution and organic solvent/surfactant mixture have been well mixed to form a homogeneous mixture, a strong base is added to the reaction vessel under continued mixing 30. The preferred strong bases for use in the reaction are sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide, with sodium hydroxide being presently most preferred. However, virtually any base of an element from Groups IA and IIA of the Periodic Table of Elements can also be used. The amount of base used is preferably ~~unimolar~~ equimolar with the amount of silver salt present in the reaction vessel, which minimizes the potential for impurities in the precipitated powder.

Please replace paragraph number [0026] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0026] The amount of surfactant present in the reaction mixture determines, to some extent, the degree to which the silver oxide particles become coated or encapsulated thereby. Applicant believes that when the amount of surfactant used in the reaction mixture is optimized, a mono-molecular layer or film of surfactant can be formed on the surface of the silver oxide particles, forming an encapsulating closed shell. However, it may be the case that only a portion or a part of the silver oxide particles become coated with surfactant. Thus, throughout the instant specification and in the appended claims, the terms "encapsulated" and "coated" should be understood to mean that at least a portion of the surface of the particle has a surfactant molecule ~~ionicallly~~ ionically bonded thereto. But, the terms should not be interpreted as meaning that the entire surface of the silver oxide particle is covered by surfactant or that the particle is completely encapsulated by surfactant.

Please replace paragraph number [0045] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0045] After the acetone washing was completed, the powder was air dried on the ~~Buchner~~ Büchner filter with vacuum for 24 hours. The air-dried powder was transferred into a porcelain dish then placed in a vacuum oven at 45°C with a dry nitrogen atmosphere for 24-36 hours. The resulting dry powder was screened through a 100 mesh screen to remove any aggregates, of which there were few.